

Special Commitment Center Resident Profile

There is no stereotypical profile that adequately describes all residents of the Special Commitment Center (SCC). The one characteristic residents share is a history of violent sexually motivated offenses. Some SCC residents have offended against adults, others have victimized children, and still others have committed crimes against both adults and children.

Some SCC residents have serious or chronic physical, mental, or developmental disabilities. Their treatment is designed in response to their individual needs. Some residents have attended college or technical vocational training schools, and have held well-paying jobs. Some are poorly educated and have limited work skills or experience. A significant number of SCC residents grew up in dysfunctional or abusive families and were victims of sexual abuse themselves. Many residents have spent long periods of their lives in prison or in other institutions.

SCC residents may be classified into two groups -- those who participate in treatment and those who do not. To determine if the community can be adequately protected if the resident is conditionally released to a less restrictive alternative, the court of commitment considers a resident's progress in treatment and the advice of professionals before rendering a decision. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that only individuals who actively participate and succeed in treatment are eligible for community transition. Of those who are eligible, only those who can demonstrate trustworthiness and a willingness to follow rigorous conditions of release are likely to receive a court order of conditional release.

Successful treatment participants have made a conscious decision to change. They attend intensive individual and group therapy sessions and classes that require them to make full disclosures, confront their offending patterns of behavior, and develop a personalized relapse prevention plan. Individual relapse prevention plans are developed and implemented by each resident with the guidance of an assigned team of treatment professionals. Together the resident and treatment professionals implement and monitor the plan.

The key factor for defining success in treatment is a resident's ability to demonstrate change in every day life – change that is consistent over time, not just during treatment sessions and groups. The SCC resident must exhibit the principles learned through treatment on the living unit and in interactions with staff and other residents. Residents are also subject to periodic polygraph and plethysmograph tests, which they must pass in order to advance through the treatment program and to qualify for community transition.